

COUNTY NEWS

[As many of the County Medical Societies are not holding meetings during the summer months and the county officers are on their vacations, few reports have been sent the Journal, but it is hoped that, beginning with the fall months, we will be able to give our readers interesting news each month from every county in the State.—Editor.]

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

San Diego County Medical Society (reported by Robert Pollock)—Over forty members of the San Diego County Medical Society attended the sessions of the A. M. A. at San Francisco, many of these motoring through the Yosemite or enjoying other brief outings on the way back. Many fellows of the A. M. A. visited San Diego during the post-convention clinics of July 2 and 3. Joseph Colt Bloodgood, during his stay in San Diego, lived up to his record for intensive work, holding four distinct programs during the twenty-four hours. He addressed a public meeting in the First Congregational church, which auditorium was crowded to the doors; a malignant tumor clinic at the county hospital for the medical profession; an illustrated talk on the malignancy of the mouth before the county dental society and an after-dinner talk before the combined medical and dental societies, previous to his leaving for Los Angeles.

The last meeting of the county society before the summer recess was given over largely to an entertaining lantern talk by H. P. Newman, who described in a very interesting manner his trip to South America under the auspices of the American College of Surgeons. The doctor's description of such interesting cities as Rio Janeiro, Buenos Ayres, and Santiago, going into their medical aspects, was greatly enjoyed by a full house at Science Hall.

On Saturday, July 14, the San Diego Scientific Library makes its bow to the public. Splendidly housed in the beautiful California building in Balboa park, it is given a setting which few infant library movements enjoy. This library links together under one roof the various collections of scientific works held in trust by such organizations as the San Diego Medical Library Association, the San Diego Museum, the Natural History Society of San Diego, Scripps Institution of Biological Research, San Diego Zoological Society and others, and adds one more to the free educational movements that are rapidly making of San Diego the cultural center of the Southwest.

SAN MATEO COUNTY

San Mateo County Medical Society (reported by William Otis Callaway, secretary)—At a meeting of the San Mateo County Medical Society, held May 29, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, W. C. Chidester; vice-president, Allen Benner; secretary-treasurer, William Otis Callaway. The following names were presented and voted upon as new members: Allen Benner, San Mateo; J. W. Hanner, Burlingame; J. M. Blood, Redwood City; H. A. Clattenburg, Redwood City; William Otis Callaway, Burlingame; H. H. Whitney, Burlingame.

Should Be Checked—"Bureaucracy," says Dr. E. H. Ochsner, "will, if not soon checked, sap the very life-blood of this nation. Government control of the medical profession is but one of its manifestations. As medical men who love our profession, and as good citizens who love our country, it is our duty to oppose this tendency with all our might."—From report of Committee on Medical Economics, Ohio State Medical Journal, May, 1923.

MEDICAL ECONOMICS

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Late Results in the Treatment of Syphilis—H. H. Hazen, Washington, D. C. (Journal A. M. A., June 23, 1923), says there are no satisfactory criteria as to the cure of syphilis. Relapses may occur after a patient has been asymptomatic and had a negative Wassermann reaction for six or seven years. Not all cases of early chancre are cured by modern methods of treatment. The early and intensive administration of arsphenamin may prevent a patient from developing a natural immunity, and a relapse may occur shortly after treatment is discontinued. Cerebrospinal syphilis can develop by the time the chancre is manifest. Every patient should have a spinal puncture preferably just before the second course of arsphenamin. A provocative Wassermann may be misleading and may be dangerous in that a relapse may follow it. A luetin reaction under proper precautions may be of value as a criterion of cure. The results of treatment in early secondary syphilis are surprisingly good. A few cases of late syphilis can be cured, but in the vast majority of instances late syphilis cannot be cured. Intraspinal therapy will often yield results when intravenous therapy fails.

Proportion of Physicians to Population—The 1921 directory of the American Medical Association listed 8,034 legally qualified physicians in Ohio. This array of medical talent serves "5,759,394 persons, or conversely, there is one physician for every 717 people in the state."

"Such service," the survey shows, "per physician, is slightly in excess of the average for the United States and more than double that of England. The average for the United States is 765; for England, 1,537; for France, 1,960; for Germany, 2,134; for Austria, 2,319, and for Russia, 7,865.

"Among the forty-eight states, Ohio ranks twentieth in the number of persons per physician. The State of California leads with an average of 508 and South Carolina is last with 1,160."—From report of Committee on Medical Economics, Ohio State Medical Journal, May, 1923.